(d) Steps taken to reduce flaring of gas include setting up of the required compression and transportation facilities, underground storage of gas and identification of consumers to utilise gas from isolated pools.

Statement

(Gas figures in MMSCMD and value in Rs. lakhs/day)

State	Gas Prodn.	Gas Flared	National Value
Western Offshore	45.30	1.67	25.1
Gujarat	7.86	0.76	11.4
Rajasthan	0.03	NIL	NIL
Assam	5.31	0.87	13.05
Tamil Nadu	0.32	0.27	4.1
Andhra Pradesh	1.85	NIL	NIL
Tripura	0.36	NIL	NIL

Note: National value taken as Rs. 1500/- thousand cu.mtrs.

Effect of privatisation and globalisation on the weaker sections

*412. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what benefits/advantage have directly accrued to the weaker sections of society as a result of Government's policy of privatisation and globalisation;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to conduct any such study; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER ALAGH): (a) All sections of the society including weaker sections are expected to benefit from higher growth of income and employment that will result from Government's policy of delicensing and dereservation of industries and liberalisation of foreign investment and trade. This is particularly so since direct assistance programmes of employment, rural development and basic minimum services supplement other economic policies. However, since the process of privatisation and globalisation is of relatively recent origin, it is premature to expect direct effects on the economy, particularly the weaker sections.

(b) No specific study has been conducted by the Government in this regard. However the Five Year Plans do contain analysis of employment and income by different categories.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to conduct any such study. The government periodically collects data on various socio-economic indicators which reflect the benefits derived as a result of Government's policy.

Revision in the RPO dealers' commission

*413. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Corporations are revising the RPO dealers' commission as per the formula formulated in 1993, for the benefit of labourers working in the retial outlets;

(b) whether any representation on this issue from the RPO dealers or their Association is pending with Government/Oil Corporations;

(c) by when orders in this regard are likely to be issued; and

(d) whether the present increase in the commission due to price hike of petroleum products covers the increased cost of evaporation loss handling loss and draft charges?